

Message Text

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S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1296

NODIS

FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

DEPT PLS PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER
CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV SF WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PREEMPTING SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION

REF: CAPETOWN'S MARCH 25 CABLE REPEATED TO DAR AS STATE 77668

1. WE SHOULD BEGIN WORK NOW TO GET AGREEMENT OF THE FIVE TO ACCEPT
FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S IDEA OF HAVING THE WESTERN FIVE
FOREIGN MINISTERS GO TO CAPE TOWN TO MEET WITH THE SAG CABINET
ON THE URGENCY OF ENDING THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SOUTHERN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS. WE SHOULD LET THE FRONTLINE AND SWAPO KNOW AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME OF OUR INTENTION TO SEND THE HIGH-LEVEL
DELEGATION TO CAPE TOWN AND OUR REASONS FOR DOING SO. AND
WE SHOULD CONVEY TO THE SAG OUR DESIRE TO HAVE THE CAPETOWN
MEETING. IN DOING SO, WE SHOULD EXPRESS TO THEM OUR STRONG
BELIEF THAT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT FOR NAMIBIA WILL HAVE
SERIOUS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
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THAT THEY SHOULD HEAR US OUT BEFORE CONSIDERING TAKING ANY
STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

2. ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE HOW MUCH SUBSTANCE THERE IS TO THREATS
BY BOTHA AND VORSTER. IN OUR NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH
AFRICA OVER THE PAST,
THE WESTERN FIVE REPEATEDLY WERE WARNED BY BOTHA THAT UNLESS

THE FIVE CHANGED THEIR POSITION ON A GIVEN POINT, THE TALKS WERE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BREAK DOWN. THEN AT THE LAST MOMENT THE SAG WOULD COME UP WITH SOME NEW ELEMENT THAT KEPT THE TALKS ALIVE. AND WE KNOW THAT IN DECEMBER VORSTER WARNED THAT WITHIN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME HE WOULD BE FORCED TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS. SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT MADE.

3. THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF NATIONAL PARTY POLITICS COULD PUSH THE SAG INTO MAKING GOOD ON THIS LATEST THREAT TO TAKE STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN INTERNAL SOLUTION (REFTEL). I BELIEVE THAT IN TRYING TO PREEMPT THIS, WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THOSE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY AND MAKE A HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH THAT WILL DIRECTLY INVOLVE ALL THE MAJOR FIGURES OF THE SAG CABINET IN A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CONFRONT THE WESTERN FIVE. WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN WHICH CONNIE MULDER, PIK BOTHA, P.W. BOTHA AND POSSIBLY OTHERS ARE SERIOUS CONTENDERS TO REPLACE VORSTER SOME DAY, NONE CAN APPEAR INDIVIDUALLY TO BE SOFT ON ANY ISSUE AS ESSENTIAL AS NAMIBIA. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE IT VERY IMPORTANT TO TRY TO INVOLVE THEM COLLECTIVELY IN THE SAG'S DECISION ON THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSAL.

4. AT THE MOMENT THE KEY QUESTION IS HOW MUCH OF THE FIVE'S PROPOSAL WILL THE FRONTLINE AND SWAPO BUY. CLEARLY, THEY WILL WANT SOME BLUCL ASSURANCES TO THE EFFECT THAT WE RECOGNIZE WALVIS BAY MUST BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF NAMIBIA. SWAPO'S RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL WILL, OF COURSE, AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE SOUTH
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AFRICANS. WHAT WE HAVE HEARD ON THIS TRIP INDICATES THE PROPOSAL.

5. TO SUM UP, I BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE OUR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES TO MEET WITH THE SAG IN CAPE TOWN AND MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT IT IS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERESTS TO MAKE SOME MOVE TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST.
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